



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE February 14, 2012

Retired Sheriff Edwin Cunningham passed away yesterday, February 13, 2012. Sheriff Cunningham was the longest serving Sheriff in Lake County history, serving as *"The Sheriff"* from 1961-1988.

During his 28 years of service Sheriff Cunningham was instrumental in ushering in an age of professionalism and excellence to this Office. He was a proponent of the importance of education in law enforcement, always encouraging his deputies to complete their college educations, and pursue every facet of learning in the field of criminal justice. He sent then Chief Deputy Richard Amiot to first session of the FBI National Academy at its new location in Quantico, Virginia. He sent other supervisors as well, including current Sheriff Dan Dunlap, to the National Academy, beginning an educational tradition that is still carried on today.



He was the first of progressive Sheriffs in Lake County. It was Sheriff Cunningham who started programs such as the Dive Team which responded to the Silver Bridge collapse on the West Virginia border in 1967 in which 46 people died. He also started the Lake County Marine Patrol helping to protect the northern border. Sheriff Cunningham's innovation was a major factor in the development of the Lake County Sheriff's Office SWAT team, the first SWAT unit in Ohio in 1974. As well, at the request of the Lake County Commissioners, Sheriff Cunningham took a struggling communications center in 1986, and developed it into the state of the art communications and emergency operations center that it is today.

But Sheriff Cunningham would have been the first to shun such accolades. He believed in hiring exceptionally qualified managers to help him run his Office, and always gave them credit for their service. Such a management style produced the current jail facility that now houses the Sheriff's Office today.

Current Sheriff Dan Dunlap reflected *"He was a people person. He remembered people's names, and their family members. He was sympathetic*

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and cared about people's problems. He was more interested in helping people than having them arrested. He gave me, and many others, a chance to have a career in law enforcement. I would not be Sheriff today without Sheriff Cunningham's support."

At this time the many people who have worked with Sheriff Cunningham through his many years here at the Lake County Sheriff's Office extend our deepest condolences to the Cunningham family, and those close to him.

Thanks Sheriff for your many years of service to the citizens of Lake County !

Frank Leonbruno

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